



Advisory
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DWR Announces Final Snow Survey Results

SACRAMENTO – Results of today’s fifth and final snow survey of the 2005-2006 snowfall season -- conducted by the California Department of Water Resources off Highway 50 near Echo Summit -- are as follows:

Location	Elevation	Snow Depth	Water Content	% of Long Term Average
Alpha	7,600 feet	102.1 inches	47.8 inches	184
Phillips Station	6,800 feet	67.4 inches	31.8 inches	198
Lyons Creek	6,700 feet	91.8 inches	40.2 inches	178
Tamarack Flat	6,500 feet	78.1 inches	36.1 inches	196

Electronic sensor readings show Northern Sierra snow water equivalents at 207 percent of normal for this date, Central Sierra at 169 percent, and, Southern Sierra at 175 percent. Statewide, the percentage of normal is at 180%.

Warming temperatures may signal the start of the snowmelt season, raising apprehension in some areas...particularly along the rain-swollen lower San Joaquin River system. But, DWR Hydrology Branch Chief Arthur Hinojosa says “analyses to date have given operators confidence that all reservoirs should be able to accommodate this season’s snowmelt without increasing downstream river flows beyond that recently experienced.”

DWR, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is helping coordinate reservoir operations with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Turlock Irrigation District and Merced Irrigation District. The agencies are conferring weekly or daily as needed to discuss snowpack conditions, snowmelt runoff forecasts, reservoir inflow forecasts, downstream river levels, and irrigation demands. “This collaborate effort,” says Hinojosa, “will provide reservoir operators with the most up-to-date hydrologic analyses of the basin to insure public

safety and provide for the other multiple uses afforded by these facilities.”

In addition to today’s manually measured sites, reporters can find real-time readings of statewide water content posted on the Internet in date order (newest at the bottom) at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/lreports/DLYSWEQ>.

Importance of Snow Surveying

Snow-water content is important in determining the coming year's water supply. The measurements help hydrologists prepare water supply forecasts as well as provide others, such as hydroelectric power companies and the recreation industry, with much needed data.

Monitoring is coordinated by the Department of Water Resources as part of the multi-agency California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program. Surveyors from more than 50 agencies and utilities visit hundreds of snow measurement courses in California’s mountains each month to gauge the amount of water in the snowpack.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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